

Tsenguunjav Byambasuren

(Last update: Jan 2026)

CONTACT	Trinity College Dublin Department of Economics 3158 Arts Building, College Green Dublin 2, Ireland	byambast@tcd.ie https://sites.google.com/view/tsenguunjavbyambasuren/
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT	Trinity College Dublin , Dublin, Ireland Assistant Professor in Economics, 2025 – present	
EDUCATION	Cornell University , Ithaca, NY Ph.D. in Applied Economics and Management, 2019 – 2025 Dissertation: “Essays on Labor Market Power” Advisors: Nancy H. Chau (Chair), Arnab K. Basu, Michele Belot, Ravi Kanbur	
	Cornell University , Ithaca, NY Master of Science in Applied Economics and Management, 2017 – 2019	
	University of Finance and Economics , Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia Bachelor of Science in Economics (with distinction), 2009 – 2013	
FIELDS	Labor Economics, Development Economics	
AFFILIATION	Monash University, Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW) Research Affiliate, 2025 – present	
PUBLISHED PAPERS	“Cooking Fuel Choice and Child Mortality in India” (with Arnab K. Basu, Nancy H. Chau and Neha Khanna) <i>Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization</i> , 2024, 222: 240-265. Featured in Cornell Chronicle, The Hindu, The Times of India, Times Now, Press Trust of India, Medical Xpress George F. Warren Award for Outstanding Paper, Cornell University	
WORKING PAPERS	“Automation Threat and Labor Market Power” (Job Market Paper) This paper studies the role of automation threat in firms’ labor market power. Employing the production approach, I show that workers in an average German manufacturer receive 79 cents on the marginal euro. Using automation threat proxied by local labor market regions’ exposure to industrial robots instrumented by plausibly exogenous shift-share factors, I find that robot exposure increases employer power over routine workers in areas with weaker unions in East Germany with spatial frictions. The empirical findings are consistent with the wage bargaining model where employers retain the “right-to-manage” their workforce composition and unions representing different workers separately bargain with the firm.	
	“Alcohol Consumption and Intimate Partner Violence: Long-Term Effects of a Temporary Alcohol Ban” (with Arnab K. Basu and Nancy H. Chau), <i>RFBerlin Discussion Paper 162/25</i> , Submitted at <i>The Review of Economics and Statistics</i>	
	We trace the impact of a temporary ban targeting liquor-serving bars – from launch to reversal – on alcohol consumption and women’s experience with domestic violence in Kerala, India. Decomposing the policy-	

induced and reversal effects by employing difference-in-differences and event-study approaches, we identify a significant reduction in alcohol consumption (but only in bars) with an accompanying reduction in intimate partner violence during the policy period. However, both alcohol consumption and domestic violence rebounded to pre-ban levels after the policy removal. Heterogeneity analysis further reveals these effects to be confined only amongst high-wealth households. A battery of robustness tests confirms our findings.

“Public Works Program, Labor Supply, and Monopsony” (with Nancy H. Chau and Vidhya Soundararajan)

This paper studies the role of changes in workforce composition in monopsony power. We develop a monopsony model in which a firm’s wage markdown—the wedge between MRPL and wage—is a weighted average of markdowns for heterogeneous workers. We empirically illustrate the theory using India’s National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), which generates non-manufacturing jobs in rural areas. Consistent with the model predictions, at manufacturing firms, we find that the program increases average markdowns by crowding out mobile workers and effectively increasing the share of immobile workers with low labor supply elasticity.

“Artisanal Mining, Female Labor Supply, and Intimate Partner Violence” (with Anh Nguyen)

This paper uses micro data from over 30 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to present nearly continent-wide evidence that the rise in the potential value of artisanal mining leads to a structural transformation from the agricultural to the non-agricultural sectors. Leveraging spatial variation in gold suitability and exogenous temporal variation in global gold prices, we show that employment activities in the mining and retail industries increase more for women than men. An increase in women’s intrahousehold bargaining power results in a decrease in violence within the household, ruling out a potential backlash effect.

“On the Intra-Household Public Goods and Fertility Trade-Off” (with Arnab K. Basu and Nancy H. Chau)

This paper explores an infinite-horizon dynamic model of intra-household public goods, fertility, and child mortality in which child survival is subject to the provision of household public goods. An overlapping generation model we developed explains the empirically observed relationship between fertility rate, household-level public goods, and infant mortality. In this framework, the household public goods provision reduces child mortality and enhances the earning capacity of surviving children. The model demonstrates how intra-household public goods provision is associated with fertility decisions through its impacts on child health and parents’ earning potential in the long run. The model with endogenous household public good provision and intergenerational transfer suggests that households make trade-offs between intra-household public goods and fertility conditional on the survival probability of offspring, a complement of child mortality.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“Capital Market Integration, Labor Market Distortions, and Labor Misallocation” (with Nancy H. Chau, Anh Nguyen and Vidhya Soundararajan)

“Services Liberalization, Monopsony, and Gender” (with Anh Nguyen), *Finalist of the 9th STEG Small Research Grant, Revised and Resubmitted to the 10th Round*

“Rural Roads and Monopsony Power” (with Ananyo Brahma and Vidhya Soundararajan)

“Gold Mining, Child Labor, and Education” (with Carol Newman and Anh Nguyen)

“Extreme Heat, Work, and Gender” (with William Seitz and Avralt-Od Purevjav)

DISCUSSIONS

2024 NEUDC Conference Discussant: “Global Labor Market Power” by Amodio, Brancati, Brummund, de Roux, and Di Maio

2023 MWIEDC Conference Discussant: “Family Planning and the Female Labor Supply: Evidence from Urban Malawi” by Karra, Maggio, and Canning

POLICY WORK	<p>“Exploring Geospatial-Based Approaches to Develop a Pre-Census National Sampling Frame in Armenia” (with Saida Ismailakhunova, Avralt-Od Purevjav and Sarchil Qader), <i>Revise and Resubmit at ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information</i> World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 11039, 2025.</p> <p>Featured in Devdiscourse</p> <p>“Distributional Impact of Energy Tariff Reforms in the Republic of Georgia” (with Saida Ismailakhunova, Avralt-Od Purevjav and Juan Carlos Palacios Mora)</p> <p>“Listening to Georgia and Armenia: Baseline and Phone Surveys and Analyses” (with Saida Ismailakhunova, Avralt-Od Purevjav and others)</p> <p>“Georgia: Poverty and Equity Assessments 3.0” (with Saida Ismailakhunova and others)</p>
SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<p>2026: ASSA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Irish Postgraduate and Early Career Economics Workshop at Maynooth University, 19th Australasian Trade Workshop at Deakin University (scheduled, co-author), PacDev Conference at UC Davis (accepted), SOLE Annual Meeting in Denver (accepted)</p> <p>2025: ASSA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, University of Georgia (Agricultural and Applied Economics), 16th IAB PhD Workshop in Nuremberg, UNU-WIDER Development Conference in Helsinki, Trinity College Dublin (Economics), 6th EALE-SOLE-AASLE Conference in Toronto, 11th Conference of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality at the World Bank HQ, Work in Progress Seminar at Trinity College Dublin (x2)</p> <p>2024: STEG Annual Conference at NYU Abu Dhabi, MWIEDC Conference at the University of Chicago, SOLE Annual Meeting in Portland OR, Online Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society, EEA-ESEM Annual Meeting at Erasmus School of Economics, EALE Conference at Norwegian School of Economics, AEP Seminar at Cornell University, NEUDC Conference at Northeastern University</p> <p>2023: PacDev Conference at the University of Washington, MWIEDC Conference at the University of Houston, 24th IZA Summer School in Labor Economics in Berlin</p> <p>2022: WEAI Annual Conference in Portland OR, APPAM Fall Research Conference in Washington DC, 17th Annual Conference at Indian Statistical Institute</p>
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	<p>Refereeing: <i>Review of Economics of the Household</i></p> <p>University/Departmental Services:</p> <p>PhD Economics Admission Committee, Trinity College Dublin, 2025 – 2026 MSc Economics Admission Committee, Trinity College Dublin, 2025 – 2026 Incoming Exchange Coordinator for Economics, 2026 – present</p>

	<p>Professional Association Membership:</p> <p>American Economic Association, Member, 2024 – present</p> <p>European Economic Association, Member, 2024 – present</p> <p>The Econometric Society, Member, 2023 – 2025</p> <p>Cornell Center for Social Sciences, Affiliated Student, 2023 – 2025</p> <p>Cornell University, Diversity in Cornell Economics (DICE), General Member, 2022 – 2025</p>																																
STUDENT ADVISING	<p>Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland</p> <p>MSc Economics Thesis:</p> <p>Ongoing: Leena Osman</p>																																
	<p>Undergraduate Economics Thesis:</p> <p>Ongoing: Shayna Arbab, Saorla Chadwick, Laoise Clifford, Elaine Farnan, Alexandra Lockard, Aine Marnane</p>																																
AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS	<table> <tbody> <tr> <td>Graduate Fellowship, Dyson School, Cornell</td> <td>2019, 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IAB PhD Workshop Travel Grant, Germany</td> <td>2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EEA Travel Grant, European Economic Association</td> <td>2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dyson Graduate Teaching Assistant – Outstanding Service Award, Cornell</td> <td>2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Graduate Teaching Assistant Fellowship, Dyson School, Cornell</td> <td>2020 – 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cornell Graduate School Conference Travel Grant (x5)</td> <td>2022 – 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Graduate Assistant Fellowship, Dyson School, Cornell</td> <td>2020 – 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Summer Internship Grant (declined), CIPA, Cornell</td> <td>2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuition Fellowship, Cornell Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA), Cornell</td> <td>2017 – 2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dean's List, University of Finance and Economics, Mongolia</td> <td>2010 – 2012</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Graduate Fellowship, Dyson School, Cornell	2019, 2024	IAB PhD Workshop Travel Grant, Germany	2025	EEA Travel Grant, European Economic Association	2024	Dyson Graduate Teaching Assistant – Outstanding Service Award, Cornell	2024	Graduate Teaching Assistant Fellowship, Dyson School, Cornell	2020 – 2024	Cornell Graduate School Conference Travel Grant (x5)	2022 – 2025	Graduate Assistant Fellowship, Dyson School, Cornell	2020 – 2023	Summer Internship Grant (declined), CIPA, Cornell	2018	Tuition Fellowship, Cornell Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA), Cornell	2017 – 2018	Dean's List, University of Finance and Economics, Mongolia	2010 – 2012												
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OTHER RESEARCH POSITIONS	Research Assistant to Professor Nancy H. Chau Research Assistant to Professor Arnab K. Basu Research Assistant to Professor Eswar Prasad	2018, 2023, 2025 2022 2019
OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE	Consultant, Poverty and Equity Group, The World Bank Summer Intern, Global Indicators Group, The World Bank Economist, Research and Statistics Department, Central Bank of Mongolia	2023 – present 2019 2013 – 2017
SKILLS	Software/Programming Stata, R, MATLAB, ArcGIS, QGIS, EViews, LaTeX Language English (fluent), Mongolian (native)	
REFERENCES	<p>Nancy H. Chau Professor, Cornell Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management 201A Warren Hall, Ithaca NY, 14853 (607) 255-4463 hyc3@cornell.edu</p> <p>Michèle Belot Frances Perkins Professor of Industrial and Labor Relations and Professor of Economics 272 Ives Hall, Ithaca NY, 14853 (607) 255-5345 mb2693@cornell.edu</p>	<p>Arnab K. Basu Professor, Cornell Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management 441 Warren Hall, Ithaca NY, 14853 (607) 255-6280 ab362@cornell.edu</p> <p>Ravi Kanbur T.H. Lee Professor of World Affairs, International Professor of Applied Economics and Management, and Professor of Economics 301-J Warren Hall, Ithaca NY, 14853 (607) 255-7966 sk145@cornell.edu</p>